

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

The discovery of the remains of Sir JOHN FRANKLIN, so far from allaying anxiety, only tends to create a still more longing desire to know more of the sad details. The remains of himself and companions have been lying scattered about the banks of the Great Fish River of Back since the spring of 1850. The story of their death Dr. RAE learned from the Indians. No white man has been there to collect their journals and to gather from the silent memorials around any of the particulars of their last moments.

In all probability the journals of Sir John, or of some of his officers, may be recovered by visiting the spot. They would tell of his progress and his discoveries, and are, therefore, well worth the attempt of recovery. We hope a party will next year be sent to the place to glean particulars and collect journals. The importance of such an expedition is so obvious that it needs only to be suggested, not argued. The story of their fate comes only from the Esquimaux, but it carries with it such an air of probability that no one seems to question its main feature.

Where is Sir JOHN FRANKLIN to be looked for? is a question that has engaged the geographical mind of England and America for the last four or five years. Within that time expedition after expedition and ship after ship have been dispatched in search of the lost explorers, but none of them had brought back any tidings, except that they spent the winter of 1845-46 at Cape Riley.

In looking at the instructions given and the route taken by these expeditions, one is now struck with the singular fatuity with which Prince Regent's Inlet, leading down into the Gulf of Boothia, where the ships are said to have been lost, seemed to have been overlooked, both by those who projected and those who conducted the English searching parties.

When the American expedition of Mr. GRINNELL was decided upon, it was understood that the British Government had abandoned the idea of any further attempt to afford relief to its missing navigators. This expedition was directed to search the shores of Wellington Channel, which up to that time had not been visited.

The American expedition led to the fitting out of several more from England, every one of which, with singular persistency, was directed to Wellington Channel as the principal point of search. PENNY, and ROSS, and OMMANEE, and BRECHER, and AUSTIN, and KELLET, every one went there to search in De Haven's wake. KENNEDY and FORSTH did indeed look into Prince Regent's Inlet; but it was nothing more than a look, for the former went no further than Cresswell Bay and the latter than Fury Beach.

When it was ascertained in this country that the searching vessels of 1850 were all bound to the same place, and that, in the writings which had been published on the other side upon the subject, no importance was attached to Prince Regent's Inlet and the gulf into which it leads as places to be searched, the omission was pointed out by a gentleman of this city. He went at length into a statement of the reasons which induced him to believe that Sir John Franklin had taken that route, and that in the Gulf of Boothia his ships were then to be found, as Sir John would not be able to extricate them. Furthermore, the opinion was advanced, in this remarkable letter, that even the searching party would have to abandon its vessels in this Gulf of Boothia, and take the very route for the south which it appears that Franklin and his party did take.

This letter was written on the 28th of March, 1850, by Col. PETER FORCE, and addressed to Captain SCORSBY, the celebrated Arctic voyager. We happen to have a copy of it, and may be excused for making a few extracts which bear most directly upon the subject:

"In your late very valuable publication on the 'Franklin expedition' you cover the whole ground of research, save one point, and that the very point to which I solicited your attention, the Gulf of Boothia. In my desire to hear your opinion on this suggestion I have too long deferred writing to return my thanks for your kind remembrances."

"It appears that at the time Sir John Franklin sailed, he, in common with many others, was of the same opinion that a passage through Prince Regent's Inlet to Behring's Strait did actually exist, and that, in the event of his not succeeding at the places pointed out in his instructions, it was his determination, expressed prior to his departure from England, to seek a passage there."

Three routes, one leading through Wellington Channel, were pointed out to Sir John Franklin in his instructions. Failing to penetrate the great Arctic Ocean by any of these—and Mr. FORCE shows that he probably would so fail—he expressed his determination to "descend Regent's Inlet and seek the passage along the coast discovered by Messrs. DEASE and SIMPSON." Showing why he had probably so failed, Mr. FORCE proceeds to show what would be the result of this descent through Prince Regent's Inlet, with the hope of finding a passage west into the Arctic Ocean from the Gulf of Boothia:

"In his search for this passage (which it has been ascertained since does not exist) he would press on to the south, believing every mile he gained in that direction a gain of so much towards the open water of the Akkoke in Barrow's map. His character for energy and perseverance is well known. No obstacle presented by ice, no matter how heavy, would induce him to relinquish his enterprise. He knew that Aberdeen Island was scarcely a degree south of Lord Mayor's Bay; but he had no knowledge of the continuous land, since then followed by Rae, from Repulse Bay entirely across to Boothia. His exertions to get through to Akkoke would only get him farther in the ice towards the bottom of the Boothian Gulf, from whence he would be unable to retrace his steps, where he, with his ships, if he found a harbor, may be at this time."

And here no doubt his ships were left, and probably here he was at the moment the above paragraph was written.

"The tribes of Esquimaux on the coast west of Repulse Bay, and the tribes on Hudson's Bay, know of the existence of each other, but there is very little intercourse between them. There is some intercourse between the tribes on Hudson's Bay and on Baffin's Bay. By the accidental meeting of parties of these several tribes, the news might be transmitted from one to another; but such a medium of transmission would require much time to convey to Pond's Bay intelligence of the arrival of Franklin's ships in the Gulf of Boothia. The account itself could not be very exact, and would become more confused when translated by one who had but an imperfect

knowledge of their language. Indeed an Esquimaux drawing of Committee Bay, beginning at Cape Chapman, might have been mistaken for one of all the space within Prince Regent's Inlet.

"It would seem from the great drifting of the ice, noticed by Capt. Sir John Ross, that there must be, at times at least, much open water towards the bottom of the Gulf. An attempt should be made to reach this by both its eastern and western shores. A thorough examination of these shores, of the intermediate ice, and of Committee Bay, would, it appears to me, be much more likely to lead to the discovery of Franklin than an examination of any of the points to which the public attention is now directed.

"The officer selected for the command of an expedition for this purpose should be provided with materials for the construction of boats and sledges for the transportation of the crews and necessary provisions, in the not improbable event of being compelled to abandon his ships. He should also be assured of the co-operation of the Hudson's Bay Company for their relief if necessary, and for the assistance which would be required in returning by Repulse Bay or Montreal Island, or by the more southern course to Wager river, or perhaps Chesterfield Inlet, in which latter direction it is supposed there is much open water."

How poignant now must be the regret that some one of the leading parties was not directed to enter Prince Regent's Inlet and look into the Gulf of Boothia!

THE FLOOD.

FOR THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

The theory of the flood propounded by a correspondent in a late number of the *Intelligencer* is no novelty, but an old theory newly set out.

Its originator, so far as my reading goes, was a Mr. ISA HILL, in a tractate on the "Antiquities of America," printed in Hagerstown in 1831. Vol. ch. 1; pp. 12, 17. It will there be found in very similar and equally glowing language. His theory did not, like the Newtonian theory of the stars, account for all the phenomena, and was otherwise encumbered with many difficulties. But it must be said, in apology for Mr. Hill, that the science of geology (if it can yet be called a science) was then in a very backward state, and he also suffered much from the effects of whiskey, of which he ultimately died, in the Baltimore almshouse, some ten or fifteen years ago. It ought, however, to be further added to Mr. Hill's credit, that, being by profession a teacher, he was desirous of being useful to his younger associates in the almshouse, whom he instructed in geography by means of maps constructed on the ground, especially a map of the State of Maryland, making a tolerable imitation of nature, so far as the Potomac river was concerned, by means of a pump. But on this map, as in his theory of the flood, the water ran up hill, or from his Chesapeake toward his Alleghenies.

Respectfully, your obedient servant, SCIENTIA.

SHEPHERDSTOWN, VA.

P. S. It is instructive to observe how the rills of speculation in one age become strong enough to turn the mills of a succeeding age.

MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCE OF FRATERNAL DISSENT.—At Galveston, (Texas), on the 10th instant, Mrs. JEWELL was accidentally shot by one of her sons, who were quarrelling, and one then having a pistol and threatening to shoot his brother. Mrs. Jewell was endeavoring to separate them when she received a mortal wound.

At Galveston, on the 16th instant, there were no cases of yellow fever, except of persons who had imprudently returned after being away all the summer, and of cases from the shipping. Absentees are advised to keep away till collected.

The Houston Telegraph states that there had been considerable increase in the mortality from yellow fever since the 10th. There were four interments on the 11th, four on the 12th, and three on the 13th.

In Kansas Territory, near Leavenworth, on the 10th instant, an affray took place between two Kentuckians and several Missourians about the killing of a man. The Kentuckians were severely and it is thought fatally wounded. The parties concerned in the affair were at once arrested by order of the Governor.

GROWING FISH.—A Cleveland (Ohio) paper says that one of the most pleasing things exhibited at their late County Fair was a lot of brook trout, artificially bred by Dr. Gailbird and Ackley, these labors in this line have heretofore noticed. They showed several broods of fish, in different stages of growth, and have demonstrated that it is just as easy to grow fish as it is fowls or any other description of food.

CONDITION OF THE OHIO RIVER.—The river at Wheeling still continues to be just about as river at all, so far as the practical benefits of navigation are concerned. We learn from the Intelligencer that there are twenty-six inches water in the channel—just enough to make steamboats look like running, without giving them a fair chance to do so. At Pittsburgh it is about in the same condition. In fact the drought throughout the country is unexampled, the consequence of which it is impossible to foresee, should there be an early winter.

THE APPLE CROP.—The purchasers of fruit for the Eastern markets (says the *Register*) are quite active in this vicinity at this time. They are buying, packing, and shipping all the suitable apples that can be obtained at their prices. The price for choice winter apples ranges from one dollar and a quarter to one dollar and a half per barrel, including package. Dealers inform us that the yield of this year is good, and the fruit fairer and more free from blemish than for some years past.

EARTHQUAKE IN KEENE.—The town of Keene, in New Hampshire, was disturbed, between ten and eleven o'clock on Tuesday night, by a slight shock of earthquake, an occurrence very unusual among the granite hills of New England. The shock was quite perceptible, but we do not learn that any injury resulted from it.

The failure of the Peoples' Bank at Cincinnati has created much excitement there and in the neighborhood. P. B. MANCHESTER, the owner of the concern, having made an assignment, left the city. He reached Leavenworth (Ind.) on Sunday night in disguise, and registered his name at a hotel as "Robinson." A mob soon gathered, and he was recognized by a man named Crist, who had assisted \$700 with him. He was surrounded by a mob, and he chose his choice between disfiguring the amount or a coat of tar and feathers. He begged and pleaded with them, told them he had no means, but it was all to no purpose. Finally he opened his trunk, and handing Crist \$3,400 in Hillsboro railroad bonds, was permitted to leave the town in haste. The citizens of Cincinnati reported to have had \$4,000 on deposit, while a number of widows and orphans are left penniless. The liabilities are said to be large, and, as his property is heavily mortgaged, it is feared the depositors, who had placed in his care over \$70,000, will not receive over ten cents on the dollar.

The Lake Superior Journal says: "Eight years ago the first steamboat was put on Lake Superior, at which time we had but one small steamboat plying between the Saut and Mackinaw; now we have eight steamers here in one day."

CUMBERLAND COAL.—The steamer Baltic, of the Collins line, on her last trip from New York to Liverpool, took with her some eight hundred tons of Cumberland coal from the mines of the Seneca Coal and Iron Company.

Mrs. FANNIE B. HUNTON, the wife of Robert H. Hunton, Esq., merchant, of Alexandria, came to her death by a melancholy accident. She was sitting alone in her room on Wednesday night, before the fire, when her dress accidentally caught, probably from a spark, and she was soon enveloped in flames. She rushed into the hall, and those near by alarmed at her cries, came to her assistance and succeeded in extinguishing the fire, but not until she was so dreadfully burnt that all hopes for the preservation of her life were over. She lingered until Thursday morning, when she expired. Mrs. Hunton was the daughter of the late Geo. BREXET, Esq., and was beloved and esteemed by all who knew her.—*Alex. Gaz.*

THE BALTIMORE AND POTOMAC RAILROAD.—We learn from the *Upper Marlboro' (Prince George's county) Gazette* that in compliance with the request of a number of the friends of this road, Maj. TIMBLER has consented to make a survey of the route from the Potomac river, opposite Aquia Creek, to a point near Baltimore, with a view to demonstrate the practicability of building the road, and to establish a route for the carrying of passengers and freight. The citizens of Charles county are moving in the matter, whilst a party of twenty gentlemen of Prince George's county have agreed to subscribe the sum of \$50 each towards defraying the expenses of the survey.

WASHINGTON.

"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1854.

We are gratified to learn from the "Union" that "the health of President PIERCE, which has been feeble for some time, has greatly improved." Judge CAMPBELL, Postmaster General, and Mr. McCLELLAND, Secretary of the Interior, have returned from their brief business visit to the North, and are now at their posts.

Mr. Secretary GUTHRIE, of the Treasury Department, had the misfortune to meet with an accident on his visit to Louisville, which has unexpectedly detained him in that city. The subjoined paragraph, copied from the "Globe" of last evening, explains the nature of the accident:

"Mr. GUTHRIE left here about three weeks ago for Louisville, Kentucky, expecting to be absent only about ten days, or two weeks at furthest. We learn that on his way we did not learn where a wheel of a car in which he was a passenger broke, and one side of the car was dragged about a mile before the engineer was aware of it and stopped the train. None of the passengers were thought to be seriously injured, and nothing about the accident was published. When Mr. Guthrie arrived at Louisville it was found that he was a good deal bruised, had considerable fever, and his physician advised him to go to bed and stay there for a week or more. A letter from Louisville states that he had been in bed eight days on the 22d instant, and that his physician thinks it prudent for him not to leave there in less than eight days from that time. He is, therefore, not expected here until the last of next week."

The reader who commences cannot fail to go through the manly and vigorous defence of the military character and conduct of Gen. HARRISON, made by Col. CHARLES S. TODD, of Kentucky, who himself shared many of the toils and perils of the campaigns to which he refers, and who speaks from personal observation of some of the prominent events of the arduous campaigns in the Northwest. We give space to the review of Col. TODD with great pleasure, having read it with an interest second only to that felt when the incidents referred to were first transmitted to the public through our columns, forty years ago.

POLITICS IN NEW YORK.

The Southern Democratic presses have lately been opening their eyes to the true state of affairs among their Democratic brethren of the North; but we doubt whether one of them will ever give its readers such a paragraph as that which follows from the Buffalo "Republic." That paper brings to mind the fact that none of the so-called (Soft) Democratic Conventions in the State of New York have endorsed the action of Congress in repealing the Missouri Compromise. On the contrary, they charge that the State Convention misrepresented their sentiments in its second resolution, which, it will be remembered, had two phases—one of disapproval of the Nebraska act and one of acquiescence in that measure. The Albany Argus thus presents the matter in bold relief:

THE POLYLOG PLATFORM REITERATED.—We invite the attention of Southern supporters of the Administration, who are congratulating themselves on the possibility of making National Democrats out of the Softs in this State, to the following from the Buffalo Republic of the 23d instant, one of the leading presses of that faction. It will be remembered that what the *Republican* of Democratic "is generally called 'Soft' by other papers."

"We observe that the Congressional Conventions of the Democracy generally speak in unequivocal terms of disapprobation of the repeal of the Missouri restriction. In this respect the example of the State Convention has not been followed. Indeed, we have yet to learn of the first Democratic Convention that has congratulated the country on the 'results likely to flow' from the passage of Mr. DOUGLASS'S bill. Looking at the elections which have recently been held, the 'results' are not of a character to permit Democrats to indulge in congratulations, or to lead them to hope that the 'surrender of a formidable function by Congress' will prove beneficial to the Democracy and contribute to the peace of the Union."

"To those Democrats who felt that their sentiments had been misrepresented in the State Convention, by the adoption of the second resolution, it is a most gratifying indication that the local conventions of those sterling Democratic counties, Onondaga, St. Lawrence, Herkimer, Oneida, Orange, and Steuben, use no daunt phrases in speaking of the pernicious act which opened territory consecrated to freedom to the uses of the slave power, but give utterance to the feelings of the people in language which cannot be misconstrued."

Will our Southern friends note the last paragraph? If its paternity were not unquestionably Democratic, would they not set it down as unadulterated Abolitionism?

The Albany Argus is consistent in its opposition to every movement having in view a fusion of the "Hards" and "Softs" of New York. It recurs to the subject in noticing the nominations and proceedings of the Hards of Erie county, and says that "these results put an end to the rumors, alike creditable to the National Democracy and detrimental to their cause, of an intended fusion with the Softs on the local tickets." And, again, in referring to a nomination in another county by the "Soft" branch of the Democracy, the Argus infers that the movement "is designed to draw out and expose the weakness of the Administration faction and to aid the Whigs."

If the Whig party itself was not in a somewhat distracted condition, something good might flow from these bitter feuds of the Democracy. Another year or two, it is to be hoped, will bring order out of the present chaos, and evolve the true national sentiment of the people of New York. It is perhaps fortunate that the political caldron has bubbled so far in advance of the Presidential election.

ALABAMA FINANCES.—We find in the Montgomery Journal the reports of the Comptroller and the Treasurer of Alabama, giving an account of the receipts and disbursements of the State Treasury for the year ending 30th September, 1854.

The report of the Comptroller shows the total receipts to be \$1,861,123, in which is included the balance from the prior year of \$1,236,069. The receipts from the tax assessments of 1853 were \$549,890; from common school fund \$62,026. The disbursements were \$1,046,293, including \$400,000 to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company; thus making the actual expenditures \$646,293, amounting which is the sum of \$29,081 for the Insane Asylum and \$74,441 for interest on the sixteenth section fund.

The report of the Treasurer shows a balance in the Treasury of \$820,276.

THE NEXT CAMPAIGN.—The British Government is already making arrangements for the next campaign. The Dublin Daily Express says that early in March the 18th, the 51st, the 54th, the 56th, the 60th, the 72d, and the 80th, the 82d, the 90th, and the 94th regiments will be in England, and prepared to proceed to the Baltic. It would thus appear that a long struggle is anticipated. The cost in the end will be immense, and unless the Allies should be discomfited an effort will no doubt be made to obtain restitution from the Czar. Such is already the sentiment of a large portion of the people of England and France.

THE CANASS IN ILLINOIS.

The leaders of the antagonist parties in Illinois will no doubt welcome the arrival of the day (the 7th of November) which is to decide the present political contest in that State. As the time draws near the activity of the disputants is increased. Among the most distinguished debaters on one side are Senators SHIELDS and DOUGLASS, and on the other Ex-Senator BRESEE, Ex-Representative LINCOLN, and Judge TRUMBULL. The following paragraph, copied from the Chicago Times of the 20th instant, will give the reader but a faint idea of the fatigues of the canvass:

"Judge DOUGLASS returned to Chicago last evening. He was met at the car by a committee appointed for that purpose by the Cook County Convention, and escorted to his rooms at the Tremont House. He left this city four weeks ago, and since then has made over twenty speeches at as many different places, and has travelled on his route more than a thousand miles. We regret to say that his health, in consequence of the great physical exertion he has made, is not so good as it was. He returns as undaunted in spirit and buoyant in hope as a man confident of the rectitude of his cause can only be. A few days' rest will, we hope, restore him to his wonted health."

Senator SHIELDS addressed an assemblage of his constituents at Springfield on the 16th instant. In the beginning of his speech, as we learn from the "State Register," he adverted to the beneficial effect of Congressional legislation during the last few years upon the prosperity of Illinois—of the immense grants of land and she had received for railroads, the swamp lands given her, the appropriations made for the improvement of Illinois river, &c. But the Nebraska excitement, he said, had now swallowed up every other, and upon this question he gave his views at length. He reminded his auditors that—

"There was one great momentous fact every man of common sense must understand and fully appreciate—that there is a moral division of this great country, a moral line which separates it into two almost equal parts. On one side of this line slavery is interwoven with the interests, prejudices, and prejudices of the people; on the other the general convictions and 'prejudices of the people are hostile to slavery. The highest perfection of steamshiping, the strenuous efforts of the wise and good have been used to prevent this moral division from becoming a deep incurable political division. This was the struggle of 1850. The nation found itself in possession of an immense accession of territory, won in a successful war. It was gained by a common effort, and was unconstitutionally, constitutionally, and by every human right the common property of the nation."

He afterwards explained the doctrine of non-intervention, as recently advanced, and maintained that the principle was right every where.

"It allowed the people (he said) to fix their own condition, manage their own affairs, and work out their own happiness in their own way. It gave equal chances to equal States in the settlement and government of common territory. Kansas and Nebraska were free now, and the people there would keep them free. The establishment of slavery in these Territories was not only improbable, but impossible, and it was always wiser and better to let people work out a great good for themselves than have it forced upon them by others; and this was the way in which freedom always do what is great and good, by their own free and voluntary act. This principle of non-intervention would not only keep Kansas and Nebraska what they are now—free—but would by its fall and air operation, if we acquire the 'Confined to the Islands of Darien, work with such powerful force and effect that no man would ever see another slave Territory on this Continent."

"After saying much more on this head, Gen. SHIELDS alluded to the danger of sectional organizations, and of arraying one section of the Union in a general sentiment of hostility against the other. The Nebraska question, he said, would soon settle itself, as, in the midst of this angry discussion, Kansas would present herself with a free constitution and be admitted as a 'free member of the Confederacy.' These views, it will be perceived, are presented with the wonted urbanity and frankness of the distinguished Senator; but, as in all other efforts to defend the Nebraska act at the North and West, it will be seen that large concessions had to be made to the anti-slavery sentiment of the people addressed. The South is left to take what consolation it can from the assurance that not only Kansas and Nebraska are to be free States, by virtue of the "principle of non-intervention," but that the legitimate consequence of this policy will be to prevent any other Slave Territory on this Continent, even to the Isthmus of Darien!

PENNSYLVANIA.

The official returns of the late election show the following results:

FOR GOVERNOR.
James Pollock, (Whig).....204,008
William Briggs, (Dem.).....167,001
Pollock's majority.....37,007

JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT.
J. S. Black, (Dem.).....167,010
Daniel McPherson, (Whig).....73,671
David Black, (W. and N.).....120,000
Black's majority over Baird.....46,414

CANAL COMMISSIONER.
Henry S. Mott, (Dem.).....274,074
George Darrie, (Whig).....83,381
Mott's majority.....190,743

THE LEGISLATURE.
The Democratic "Union" says that "the political complexion of the next Legislature we do not think can be determined until the members assemble at Harrisburg. There appears to be an opposition majority in the House and on joint ballot; but whether it will be a reliable majority on all questions remains to be ascertained." The opposition majority in the House is quite large. In the Senate parties are nearly tied.

PROHIBITORY LIQUOR LAW.
For the law 158,842, against it 163,510; majority against the measure, 5,168. Thirty-six counties gave majorities for the law and twenty-seven against it.

NEW JERSEY.
The nominations for Congress in New Jersey being now complete, we subjoin a list of them:

Dist. W. and N. Jersey. Democrat.
1.....L. D. Clawson.....T. W. Milford.
2.....G. R. Robbins.....N. S. Rue.
3.....James S. Bishop.....Samuel Lilly.
4.....A. C. Osborne.....George R. Vail.
5.....A. M. Pennington.....John S. Darcy.
The election will take place on the 7th of November next.

PROPOSED REPEAL OF DUTY ON FOREIGN COAL.—A petition to Congress for the repeal of the duty on foreign coal has been placed in the Boston Merchants' Exchange, and has already received a large number of signatures. The following is the language of the petition, addressed to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States:

"The undersigned, people of the United States and residents of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, respectfully petition your honorable bodies to repeal all duties now existing by law upon the introduction of foreign coals."

"Recent action of the most prominent coal operators in the country has demonstrated the impropriety of further protection of an interest abundantly able to take care of itself; and your petitioners represent that an immediate repeal of the existing burdensome National Coal Tax would be hailed with satisfaction by every class of the community and directly interested in speculative combination to raise the price of coal."

THE HARPER'S FERRY LAW-SUIT.

The decision at Staunton of the suit of Messrs. BROWN, BECKMAN & Co. against Col. HOOKER, representing the United States, has already been briefly alluded to in this paper. A more full reference to it may not be without interest. Some of the facts are furnished by the Staunton Spectator, and others by a gentleman who was present and heard the very able arguments on the occasion.

The claim, it will be recollected, was set up by the plaintiffs under a Virginia land warrant to cover vacant land next to the rivers Potomac and Shenandoah, at Harper's Ferry, occupied by the United States for a national armory. The following is the history of the Government's title, as related by the Hon. JAMES M. MASON:

"This Harper's Ferry tract was included in the large territorial grant made by the Crown of Great Britain to Lord Fairfax some one hundred and twenty years ago, and known as the 'North Neck.' In the year 1751 this tract of land was granted to Robert Harper by a patent issued from the proprietary office of Lord Fairfax, on condition that he should pay to said Fairfax, (at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel) one shilling for each acre of land. Upon this condition he resided from 1751 until his death in October, 1782; and by his will he devised this and an adjoining tract to his nephew Griffith and his niece Sarah Harper, who had intermarried with John Wager, son of the lower part of the tract being devised to the niece. The will of Harper, however, only conveyed to Wager and wife a life estate in the land, with authority to give it by will to such of their sons as they may elect. In 1796 Daniel Washington purchased the land for the use of the United States from John Wager, sen.; his only son, John Wager, Jr., and his two daughters uniting with him in the deed to the Government, his wife Sarah Harper being dead. The counsel on either side of the tract being devised to the niece. The will of Harper, however, only conveyed to Wager and wife a life estate in the land, with authority to give it by will to such of their sons as they may elect. In 1796 Daniel Washington purchased the land for the use of the United States from John Wager, sen.; his only son, John Wager, Jr., and his two daughters uniting with him in the deed to the Government, his wife Sarah Harper being dead. The counsel on either side of the tract being devised to the niece. The will of Harper, however, only conveyed to Wager and wife a life estate in the land, with authority to give it by will to such of their sons as they may elect. 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